

majority which sustains the Government will be disposed to deal with it upon that basis only. I regret, under these circumstances, that at a recent assemblage of the Liberal-Conservative party, so-called, of this Province, a party platform was enunciated, a party line taken with reference to this Treaty, and it surprised me not a little to see that while their Press earnestly denounced the supposition that it was to be made a party measure on the Ministerial side, they should have been first in solemn convention assembled, to take a party line on the other. Those who have preceded me have referred at some length to the actions of the past. I desire to say something of the present and the future, illustrated, it may be, by the reference to the past; and I turn to another question of very great practical importance—the present position of the Pacific Railway matter. You will have observed that when the Government, of which I was then a member, undertook to deal with that question, their policy was enunciated in distinct terms to the electors before the late appeal, and that policy was most unequivocally approved, first at the polls and subsequently in Parliament. (Hear, hear.) I see that a deputation has been sent to England; that the people of British Columbia—no, not the people of British Columbia, for I do not believe they, as a body, sympathize with these extreme views—that the Government of British Columbia has sent a deputation to England, urging that some measure should be taken to force the Government and people of this country to do more than has been proposed with reference to that Railway. We (last session) took the unpleasant step of very largely increasing the rate of your taxation, in order to provide funds towards the fulfilment, so far as practicable, of this and other obligations imposed on you by the late Government. Every man among us is now paying one-sixth more taxes than before in order to this end. Parliament has agreed that the work shall